

Fisheries and Sea Otter Conservation Coalition

~ working for Balanced Marine Ecosystem Management

Immediate Release
June 28, 2006

Contact: Vern Goehring
Executive Director, California Sea Urchin Commission
916.444.8194 vern@calurchin.org

FISHERY INDUSTRY FORMS COALITION FOR BALANCED MARINE ECOSYSTEM

(Sacramento, CA., June 28, 2006)-----The California Sea Urchin Commission has taken initiative to form the Fisheries and Sea Otter Conservation Coalition (FSOCC). The coalition's intent is to address the difficult issues involving the protection of the sea otter, while at the same time protecting the livelihoods of people in the fishing industry as well as recreational anglers. The members include the California Sea Urchin Commission, California Trap and Lobster Association, Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association, California Wetfish Producers Association, Southern California Trawlers Association, and the Recreational Fishing Alliance. There are other fishery associations considering membership.

The FSOCC's primary goal is to protect sea otters while minimizing the impact on commercial and sport fisheries. The FSOCC is firmly dedicated to achieving a balanced management practices for fisheries and sea otters.

Currently the FSOCC is talking to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regarding the many complex issues raised regarding the fishing industry and the sea otter. The Coalition feels their needs are not being addressed with the FWS. They are hoping that by coming together they can have an impact on any decisions that are made concerning their industry and the protection of the sea otter. The FSOCC is working for a positive outcome for the fishery interests while maintaining a balanced marine ecosystem.

For more information contact Vern Goehring, the Executive Director of the California Sea Urchin Commission, at 916.444.8194 or visit the Coalition's web site at FSOCC.org.

-30-

California Sea Urchin Commission, California Trap and Lobster Association,
Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association, California Wetfish Producers Association, Southern
California Trawlers Association, Recreational Fishing Alliance

1621B 13th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 - 916.444.8194 – Fax 916.444.8195